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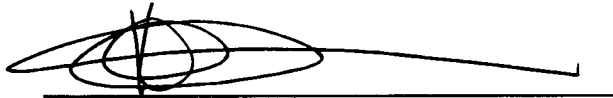
TITLE: HEAD STACK ASSEMBLY INCLUDING A TRACE SUSPENSION  
ASSEMBLY BACKING LAYER AND A GROUND TRACE FOR GROUNDING A  
SLIDER

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PTO/SB/21 (09-04)

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Total Number of Pages in This Submission

5

Application Number

10/676,537

Filing Date

09/30/2003

First Named Inventor

Jai N. Subrahmanyam et al.

Art Unit

2652

Examiner Name

Robert S. Tupper

Attorney Docket Number

WSTD-L-082A / K35A1176

**ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)**☐

Fee Transmittal Form

☐

Fee Attached

☒

Amendment/Reply

☐

After Final

☐

Affidavits/declaration(s)

☐

Extension of Time Request

☐

Express Abandonment Request

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Information Disclosure Statement

☐

Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)

☐Reply to Missing Parts/  
Incomplete Application☐Reply to Missing Parts  
under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53☐

Drawing(s)

☐

Licensing-related Papers

☐

Petition

☐Petition to Convert to a  
Provisional Application☐

Power of Attorney, Revocation

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Change of Correspondence Address

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Terminal Disclaimer

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After Allowance Communication to TC

☐Appeal Communication to Board  
of Appeals and Interferences☐Appeal Communication to TC  
(Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)☐

Proprietary Information

☐

Status Letter

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Remarks

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT**

Firm Name

STETINA BRUNDA GARRED &amp; BRUCKER

Signature

*Eric L. Tanezaki*

Printed name

Eric L. Tanezaki

Date

09/06/05

Reg. No.

40,195

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Kimberly Carlsen

Date

09/06/05

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Application No.: 10/676,537  
Response to Office Action of 08/10/2005  
Attorney Docket: WSTD L-083A / K35A1176



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants:	Jai N. Subrahmanyam et al.	)	Confirmation No.	7661
		)		
Serial No.:	10/676,537	)	Art Unit:	2652
		)		
Filed:	09/30/2003	)	Examiner:	Robert S. Tupper
		)		
For:	HEAD STACK ASSEMBLY	)		
	INCLUDING A TRACE	)		
	SUSPENSION ASSEMBLY	)		
	BACKING LAYER AND A	)		
	GROUND TRACE FOR	)		
	GROUNDING A SLIDER	)		

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir/Madam:

This is a response to the Office Action mailed August 10, 2005, in relation to the above-identified patent Application. In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that the Application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: (A) FIG.2, (B) FIG. 8, and (C) FIG. 10. The Office Action indicated that the Applicants are required under 35 U.S.C. §121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The Office Action indicated that Claim 1 is considered generic.

In response to such restriction requirement, Applicants hereby provisionally elect with traverse Species A as identified by the Examiner. Applicant believes that all claims, specifically Claims 1-18 read on Figure 2 associated with Species A.

As indicated above, Applicants' provisional election is with traverse. Applicants believe that independent Claims 6, 7, 12, 13, and 18 are generic, in addition to Claim 1 as acknowledged by the Examiner. In this regard, Claim 1 is directed towards a head stack assembly. Claim 6 is directed to a disk drive that includes the elements of the head stack assembly as recited in Claim 1. Claim 7 is directed to a head gimbal assembly that recited the three of the five elements of the head stack assembly of Claim 1, namely, "a trace suspension assembly backing layer", "a dielectric layer" and "a slider."

Independent Claim 12 is directed towards a disk drive. Two differences between Claim 12 and Claim 1 are that Claim 12 requires a rotary actuator and Claim 12 does not require a load beam. However, Claim 12 similarly recites "a trace suspension assembly backing layer", "a dielectric layer" and "a slider." Claim 13 recites a head gimbal assembly that includes the recited "a trace suspension assembly backing layer", "a dielectric layer" and "a slider" as recited in Claim 12. Finally, Claim 18 is directed towards a disk drive that includes a head stack assembly with an actuator arm and a head gimbal assembly (as recited in Claim 13).

On the basis of the foregoing, Applicants therefore submit that the indicated provisional restriction requirement with respect to the Application has been fully addressed.

Should the Examiner have any suggestions for expediting allowance of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone

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Attorney Docket: WSTD L-083A / K35A1176

number listed below. Should any additional fees be due please charge Deposit Account No.  
19-4330.

Respectfully submitted,

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